

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 02714 112128Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 PA-01 /065 W
-----087840 112131Z /75
P 112044Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5280

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: EIGHTH PEN PRISONER LIST PUBLISHED

REF: BUENOS 2625

1. THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ANNOUNCED ON APRIL 7, THE NAMES OF 158 EXECUTIVE DETAINEES HELD IN REGIONAL JAILS IN THE PROVINCES OF MISIOES, SALTA, ENTRE RIOS, TUCUMAN, LA RIOJA, SANTIAGO DEL ESTERO, CHACO, JUJUY, MENDOZA, SANTA FE, AND BUENOS AIRES. ONLY ONE U.S. INTEREST CASE APPEARED ON THE LIST - VILLAFANE, MIGUEL ANGEL (293/78/2).
 2. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY'S TABULATIONS BASED ON THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS THE GOVERNMENT HAS PUBLISHED TO DATE THE NAMES OF 3309 PEN PRISONERS.
 3. THE ARGENTINE PRESS IS BEGINNING TO FOCUS ON FINAL RESULTS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CHRISTMAS PROMISE TO PUBLISH THE NAMES OF 3607 PEN PRISONERS. HOWEVER THERE IS CONFUSION IN THE PRESS ACCOUNTS. THE WEEKEND PRESS HAD FOUR DISTINCT TOTALS FOR PUBLISHED NAMES OF PEN
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PRISONERS, PERHAPS CAUSED BY ADOPTING A VARIETY OF METHODS IN ADDING THE NAMES OF PERSONS RECENTLY PLACED IN PEN STATUS TO THE PRISONER LIST TOTALS. LA NACION AND LA OPINION PUBLISHED A FIGURE OF 3312, CLOSE TO OUR FIGURE OF 3309. CLARIN REPORTED A TOTAL TO DATE OF 3340, CRONICA 3352, WHILE THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD STATES THAT 366 NAMES ARE STILL TO BE PUBLISHED, WHICH WOULD

SEEM TO INDICATE A COUNT OF 3241 NAMES PUBLISHED SO FAR.

4. AS WE POINTED OUT IN REFTTEL THE PEN NAME LIST TOTAL IS A MOVING TARGET. THIS TOTAL MUST BE INCREASED BY THE NUMBER OF NAMES PLACED ON PEN STATUS AFTER CHRISTMAS WHICH LATER APPEARED ON THE PRISON LISTS. THE TOTAL TARGET NUMBER MUST CORRESPONDINGLY BE REDUCED BY THE NUMBER OF PERSONS HELD UNDER PEN ON CHRISTMAS WHO WERE RELEASED FROM JAIL PRIOR TO THE PREPARATION OF THE PRISON LIST WHERE THEY WERE FORMERLY HELD.

5. THE ONLY BLESSING WE HAVE IN OUR CALCULATIONS IS THAT THE GOA ANNOUNCED NO ADDITIONS OR RELEASES FROM PEN LAST WEEK. WE ARE WORKING TO RECONCILE THESE VARIOUS SETS OF FIGURES.
CASTRO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DATA, PUBLICATIONS, PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BUENOS02714
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780156-0252
Format: TEL
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780472/aaaacisy.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1f5020b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 BUENOS AIRES 2625
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3014179
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EIGHTH PEN PRISONER LIST PUBLISHED
TAGS: SHUM, AR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1f5020b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014